

during 2023, the first annual decrease in drug overdose deaths since 2018;

Whereas overdose deaths involving opioids decreased from an estimated 84,181 in 2022 to 81,083 in 2023;

Whereas overdose deaths from synthetic opioids (primarily fentanyl) decreased in 2023 compared to 2022, but overdose deaths from cocaine and psychostimulants (like methamphetamine) increased;

Whereas, in 2023, there were approximately 22,219,000 adults in the United States who considered themselves to be in recovery from substance use disorder;

Whereas individuals with substance use disorder may face stigma from health professionals as well as from friends and family;

Whereas it has been demonstrated that stigma can be a barrier to accessing treatment and engaging in recovery for individuals with substance use disorder; and

Whereas peer-supported communities offer individuals with substance use disorder better success in recovery by addressing the personal and emotional effects of addiction and easing reintegration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of patient, provider, and societal education for the prevention of substance use disorder;

(2) supports efforts to explore the means by which integrated care, community, and helping individuals obtain a sense of purpose can lead to effective and sustainable treatment of substance use disorder;

(3) shows appreciation and gratitude for family members, friends, and other individuals who support individuals in recovery from substance use disorder; and

(4) supports the designation of September 2024 as “National Recovery Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 860—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6, 2024, THROUGH OCTOBER 12, 2024, AS “RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK” TO CELEBRATE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 860

Whereas the free exercise of religion is an inherent, fundamental, and inalienable right protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the United States has long recognized that the free exercise of religion is important to the intellectual, ethical, moral, and civic development of individuals in the United States, as evidenced by the Founders of the United States, such as—

(1) Benjamin Franklin, who believed religion to be “uniquely capable of educating a citizenry for democracy”; and

(2) George Washington, who said in his farewell address, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.”;

Whereas religious education is useful for self-development because it asks students to consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life, engages students in questions about morality and justice, and enables students to identify their values;

Whereas studies like the one published by the International Journal of Mental Health Systems in 2019 have shown that religious education can be “instrumental to improving adolescent mental health” by helping children learn how to make decisions based on morals, promoting less risky choices, and encouraging connectedness within a community, which can enhance self-esteem and well-being;

Whereas religious education fosters respect for other religious groups and individuals generally by acknowledging a source for human dignity and worth;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States found in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925), that the State does not have power “to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. The child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.”;

Whereas religious instruction can come from a variety of sources, including sectarian schools and released time programs;

Whereas, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2015, 4,350,000 children in the United States attended sectarian elementary and secondary schools where those children received religious education; and

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States held in *Zorach v. Clauson*, 343 U.S. 306 (1952), that State statutes providing for the release of public school students from school to attend religious classes are constitutional, and, as a result, an estimated 540,000 public school students in the United States take advantage of released time programs each year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms the importance of religious education in the civic and moral development of the people of the United States;

(2) celebrates the schools and organizations that are engaged in religious instruction of the children of the United States to aid those children in intellectual, ethical, moral, and civic development;

(3) calls on each of the 50 States, each territory of the United States, and the District of Columbia to accommodate individuals who wish to be released from public school attendance to attend religious classes; and

(4) designates the week of October 6, 2024, through October 12, 2024, as “Religious Education Week”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 861—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2024 AS “SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH” IN ORDER TO EDUCATE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION METHODS, EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO COMPLICATIONS FROM SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. WARREN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 861

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as “SCD”) is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas SCD can result in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, restricted blood flow, damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas SCD causes acute and chronic episodes of severe pain;

Whereas SCD affects an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas approximately 1,000 babies are born with SCD each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 365 newborn Black or African American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait and 1 in 13 Black or African Americans carries the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of an individual with SCD in the United States is often severely limited;

Whereas sickle cell anemia can shorten life expectancy by more than 20 years;

Whereas sickle cell anemia is a common cause of childhood stroke, and, in 2019, fewer than half of children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 16 years old received the recommended screening for stroke;

Whereas, in 2019, only 2 in 5 children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 9 years old used recommended medication that can prevent sickle cell anemia complications;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address sickle cell disease, which, among other things, cited the need for new innovative therapies as well as the need to address barriers that may impact delivery of and access to approved treatments;

Whereas, while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSCT”) is currently the only cure for SCD and advances in treating the associated complications of SCD have occurred, more research is needed to find widely available

treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas September 2024 has been designated as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the United States about SCD, including early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from SCD and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month to raise public awareness of the sickle cell trait, preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from sickle cell disease, complications from sickle cell disease, and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

SENATE RESOLUTION 862—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 23, 2024, AS “NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY DAY”

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 862

Whereas, on October 23, 1972, the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) became law and ushered in a new era of ocean conservation;

Whereas the National Marine Sanctuary System is a nationwide network that conserves spectacular oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes;

Whereas communities across the United States can nominate their most treasured marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries protect biodiversity, safeguard extraordinary seascapes, historic shipwrecks, and sacred cultural places, and provide abundant recreational opportunities;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries seek opportunities to partner with indigenous governments and communities to achieve shared conservation goals and to support the care-taking of ecological resources and cultural sites of indigenous peoples;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries protect vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered;

Whereas the conservation of marine ecosystems is vital for healthy oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, for addressing climate change, and for sustaining productive coastal economies;

Whereas the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and its partners work to protect and nurture the growth of the National Marine Sanctuary System;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries increase access to nature for all, support coastal communities, and generate billions of dollars annually in local communities by providing jobs in the United States, supporting commercial, Tribal, and recreational fisheries, bolstering tourism and recreation, engaging businesses in stewardship, and driving the growth of the blue economy;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries connect people and communities through

science, education, United States history, recreation, and stewardship and inspire community-based solutions that help individuals understand and protect the spectacular underwater habitats, wildlife, archaeological resources, and cultural seascapes of the United States;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries are living laboratories that enable cooperative science and research that improves resource management and advances innovative public-private partnerships;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries can help make oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes more resilient by protecting ecosystems that sequester carbon, by safeguarding coastal communities from flooding and storms, and by protecting biodiversity;

Whereas the United States is a historic maritime Nation, and oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are central to the way of life of the people of the United States;

Whereas engaging communities as stewards of these protected waters makes national marine sanctuaries unique and provides a comprehensive, ecosystem-based, highly participatory approach to managing and conserving marine and Great Lakes environments for current and future generations; and

Whereas October 23, 2024, is recognized as “National Marine Sanctuary Day” to increase awareness about the importance of the National Marine Sanctuary System and healthy oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and to celebrate the many recreational opportunities available for the enjoyment of this network of protected waters: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 23, 2024, as “National Marine Sanctuary Day”;;

(2) encourages the people of the United States and the world to responsibly visit, experience, recreate in, and support the treasured national marine sanctuaries of the United States;

(3) acknowledges the importance of national marine sanctuaries in supporting community resilience, protecting biodiversity, and increasing access to nature;

(4) recognizes the importance of national marine sanctuaries for their recreational opportunities and contributions to local and national economies across the United States;

(5) celebrates the ability of the National Marine Sanctuary System to protect nationally significant places in oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes;

(6) calls on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to partner with communities and to complete designations of new national marine sanctuaries; and

(7) encourages Federal agencies to balance priorities and work together to support the priorities of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

SENATE RESOLUTION 863—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 12, 2024, AS “NATIONAL LOGGERS DAY”

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 863

Whereas the logging industry has served as an economic driver and cultural tradition in the United States for centuries;

Whereas the logging industry creates rural jobs and provides revenue for local and State governments and National forests;

Whereas loggers provide renewable material for products used by people in the United States every day;

Whereas loggers are the first link in the \$300,000,000,000 domestic forest products supply chain;

Whereas loggers are the means by which healthy forest management plans are accomplished;

Whereas logging provides for healthy forests, which—

(1) create and maintain vital wildlife habitats;

(2) protect watersheds;

(3) provide young forests that sequester carbon for cleaner air;

(4) provide social wellbeing and public recreational opportunities; and

(5) reduce loss of life and property from wildfires; and

Whereas logging provides for healthy forests through regeneration and conservation, including by planting 2,500,000,000 trees annually: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates October 12, 2024, as “National Loggers Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 864—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2024, AS “RAIL SAFETY WEEK” AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RAIL SAFETY WEEK TO REDUCE HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING AND TRESPASSER-RELATED INCIDENTS, FATALITIES, INJURIES, AND DERAILMENTS, IMPROVE THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS BY RAIL, AND PREVENT RAIL WORKER FATALITIES

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. VANCE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Whereas the first Rail Safety Week was held from September 24 through September 30, 2017, by a highway-rail grade crossing safety nonprofit organization Operation Lifesaver, the Department of Transportation, and other organizations;

Whereas Rail Safety Week was launched to—

(1) raise awareness about the need for increased education on how to be safe around highway-rail grade crossings and railroad tracks; and

(2) highlight efforts to further reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities;

Whereas highway-rail grade crossing and trespassing incidents constituted approximately 96 percent of all rail-related fatalities during 2023;

Whereas, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429), Congress provided \$3,000,000,000 during a 5-year period for the Railroad Crossing Elimination grant program that has provided nearly \$600,000,000 to 63 local communities in 32 states to construct and plan highway-rail grade separation projects to eliminate crossings;

Whereas, in 2022, more than 60 percent of all highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred at highway-rail grade crossings with lights or gates;

Whereas preliminary Federal statistics indicate that 2,192 highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred in the United States in 2023, resulting in 247 deaths and another 764 individuals being injured;

Whereas many collisions between trains and motor vehicles or pedestrians could have